Felix Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*: Music of Two Worlds

**Singing Mendelssohn’s Melodies**

**Skills/Learning Goals:**
- Recognizing musical themes
- Identifying character traits in a musical work

**Big Idea:**
You can sing along to learn about the different kinds of humans that show up in Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

**Preparing for the Video:**
Stand up so you can sing out more clearly!

**How to Use this Video:**
Sing along with teaching artist Erin Wight as she guides you through each theme. If you want, pause after each theme to continue rehearsing, or discuss the words you might use to describe how each theme sounds.

**Theme 1: The Royalty**
- This theme sounds: Proud, grand, fancy
- Words sung by Erin: “Grand, very grand, very fancy fancy fancy fancy grand”

**Theme 2: The Lovers**
- This theme sounds: Sighing, with feelings of love and despair
- Words sung by Erin: “Sighing sighing sighing, ah ah ah”

**Theme 3: The Workmen**
- This theme sounds: Goofy, enthusiastic, crazy (like getting turned into a donkey!)
- Words sung by Erin: “Ba da dumb a da dum, ba da dumb a da dum, hee haw, hee haw” (repeat)

**Extension:** Mendelssohn also creates music for the Fairy world in Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Brainstorm some characteristics you would use to describe Fairies (examples: mysterious, meddlesome, magical, sneaky) and then hum or sing your own music to represent what music for the Fairy world might sound like. Discuss how you made your musical sounds Fairy-like!